



July 2004

COUNCIL APPROVES FINAL BUDGET

6 TO 6 PROGRAM, REC CENTER AND SEASONAL POOL OPERATION HOURS, KEY COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POSITIONS PRESERVED

On June 22nd, the City Council unanimously passed its Fiscal Year 2005 budget by making the necessary, but difficult, decisions to trim the final \$22 million to produce a balanced budget.

It's never easy to make cuts in essential services or personnel. However, recent economic times have dramatically reduced the amount of funds we receive from the State of California, so we were faced with a large number of difficult budgetary decisions to make.

I am pleased to report that I received the support of my colleagues on the Council in my efforts to preserve the majority of 6 to 6 after school programs in the city. Of the existing 25,000 slots open to school children, we were able to retain more than 24,000 of them. Additionally, we were able to keep the program free for all participants, which I believe is vital to the success of the program.

Additionally, we were able to restore recreation center and seasonal pool operation hours in all districts. After much debate, we successfully negotiated a plan in which some recreation centers in each district would remain open for 48 hours each week as opposed to the 40 hours proposed by the City Manager. In Council District Three, the rec centers offering the additional hours are the Balboa Activity Center, City Heights Recreation Center, Golden Hill Recreation Center and North Park Recreation Center. All other rec centers will now be open 40 hours; however, none were forced to be closed.

We were also able to restore seasonal hours (November to February) at five city-owned swimming pools, including Bud Kearns Pool in Balboa Park. However, we were forced to increase the rental fees at civic pools for adult groups in order to keep the pools open. We felt this was the best option available so as not to decrease pool availability for youth, seniors and disabled individuals.

During tough budgetary times the city is often faced with the need to further streamline its staffing requirements, and this year was no exception. However, I was able to fight to keep

key Community and Economic Development Department positions in place which are the core of our urban revitalization programs and small business concerns.

We also worked closely with the Mayor to restore one Community Service Center in each council district, as well as Sunday hours at one branch library in each district. In Council District Three we were able to retain the Community Service Center in City Heights due to the high level of services accessed at this site. The North Park Branch Library was chosen as the site to maintain its Sunday hours. City Heights will also have their Sunday hours kept in place thanks to private donations.

Deputy Mayor Atkins fought to preserve seasonal hours at Bud Kearns Pool in Balboa Park (right) ...



... and Sunday hours at the North Park Branch Library (left).

One bit of good news to come out of this year's budget process is that we were able to increase the budgets of both the Police and Fire-Rescue departments. This remains a top priority for many San Diegans, and I'm pleased we were at least able to offer increases in these vital areas.

Unfortunately, there are cuts in what many of us consider to be important community services. Park and recreation programs, libraries, Community Service Centers, and day-to-day services provided by each of our city departments have all been affected by cuts. Until we stabilize our funding situation with the state and figure out a way to permanently fund our constant and consistent public safety needs, we'll continue to see cuts in these basic city services.

For this reason, I will continue to explore ways to provide additional revenues to the city. This includes looking at a possible increase to our Transient Occupancy Tax, supporting the revenue stabilization agreement with the state, and possibly exploring a cost-recovery plan for our trash collection service, which is currently free and costs the city over \$30 million annually.



(above) Deputy Mayor Atkins receives a certificate of appreciation at the recent North Park Spring Festival, and (below) presents a special council resolution to representatives of the Kensington/Normal Heights Branch Library in celebration of its 50th birthday.



PHOTO GALLERY

(right) Deputy Mayor Atkins presents the U.S. Department of Commerce 2004 Excellence in Urban Development Award to the city's Economic and Community Development Department Director Hank Cunningham and department staff members.



Deputy Mayor Atkins receives a full briefing from both the fire command leader (left) and Fire Chief Jeff Bowman (below) during the recent Laurel Street Bridge fire (below left). Atkins commended the Chief and Fire-Rescue staff for their prompt and effective response which saved this historic Balboa Park landmark.



JUNE COUNCIL ACTIONS IN REVIEW

June 8th: Approved a new sewer rate structure required by the State of California for the city to be in compliance with state regulations.

June 8th: Increased sewer capacity charges based on a cost of service study the council requested that showed that new hook-ups were not paying for themselves.

June 14th: Deputy Mayor Atkins presented the Kensington/Normal Heights Branch Library with a special council resolution recognizing their 50th Birthday Celebration. (photo above)

June 21st: Approved a 15-year lease agreement with San Diego Family Care at the Mid-City Community Clinic to ensure that they will continue to provide vital medical services to Mid-City residents.

June 21st: Approved funding for Fox Canyon Park and Home Avenue Park from the Mid-City Park Development Fund. \$900,000 will go toward funding the development of the park at Fox Canyon and \$600,000 will go toward design and development of the Home Avenue Park site in City Heights.

June 22nd: Increased water capacity charges. This was a result of the cost of service study requested by the council that showed that the cost of new water hook-ups was more than the city was charging, and the rate needed to be adjusted to achieve full cost recovery.

June 22nd: Proposed a new water rate structure that would have lessened the burden on residential customers. Deputy Mayor Atkins supported this proposal, however it failed on a 4 to 4 vote.

June 28th: Proclaimed June 28th as Sister Linda Lutz Day honoring her many years of service to the students of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School in City Heights.

June 29th: Approved by a 6-3 vote (with Deputy Mayor Atkins voting no) an action submitting to the voters in November a ballot proposition relating to changing the City Charter from a Council-Manager to a Mayor-Council form of governance on a five-year trial basis.

June 29th: Approved the Business Improvement District budgets for FY 2005.

WALL OF HONOR DEDICATED AT LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

I was honored to give the closing address at the recent ceremony dedicating the Wall of Honor at the San Diego LGBT Community Center. This wall, located in the auditorium of The Center at 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest, is the nation's only community memorial display honoring important local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community members who made significant and positive contributions to San Diego's LGBT community.

The Wall of Honor is a bold statement about the need for a community--any community--to commemorate and remember the important historical figures that have gone before us. There is so much courage and triumph in each of the stories behind these names and photos. I invite you to stop by The Center and remember and learn about these community members whose lives made a difference to the world they left behind.



Deputy Mayor Atkins gave the closing address (above right) and presented Assemblymember Christine Kehoe with the medal commemorating the life of activist Neil Good (right) at the recent Wall of Honor dedication at the San Diego LGBT Community Center. Photos and bios of the inaugural 16 honorees who make up the Wall of Honor are on permanent display in the auditorium of The Center (left).



UPCOMING DISTRICT THREE STREET FAIRS, PARADES, CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS

North Park Community Association Summer Concerts

Saturdays, 6-8pm

July 17th, Bird Park: Ismael the Peacemaker with Dubsquad

July 31st, Bird Park: The San Diego Cajun Playboys

August 7th, North Park Community Park: Los Alacranes

August 21st, Bird Park: Eve Selis

For more information, go to: www.northparksd.org

17th Annual International Summer Organ Festival

Through August 30th

Monday evenings at 7:30pm

Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park

July 5: David Wickerham, organist

July 12: Clive Driskill-Smith, organist

July 19: Movie Night with Dennis James, organist

Double feature: "A Dog's Life"/"The Pilgrim," starring Charlie Chaplin

July 26: Marek Kudlicki, organist

AIDS Walk

Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue and Quince Street

Sunday, September 26, 7am-Noon

Contact: 619/291-9255

LGBT Pride Rally, Parade, Festival

Rally, Spreckels Organ Pavilion: Friday, July 30, 7:30pm

Parade, Hillcrest, University Ave. between Normal Street and Sixth Avenue: Saturday, July 31, 11am

Festival, Balboa Park at Sixth Ave. and Ivy St.:

Sat., July 31, Noon -10pm, Sun., Aug. 1, 11am-8pm

Contact: 619/297-7683

CityFest

Hillcrest, Fifth Ave. between University Ave. and Upas St.

Sunday, August 8

10am-7pm

Contact: 619/299-3330

Adams Avenue Street Fair

Adams Avenue between Felton and 35th streets

Saturday, September 25, 10am-9pm

Sunday, September 26, 10am-6pm

Contact: 619/563-0034

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)

Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

4310 Landis Street, 2nd Floor

Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm

Contact: Michael Sprague, Chair, 619/255-7902.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Steven Stratman, Chair, 619/702-6055.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way

Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Michael Powers, Chair, 619/280-5184, or email mppvette@cox.net

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Risa Baron, Chair, 619/284-2505.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1010 University Avenue

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: David Gardner, Chair, 619/835-9501.

How To Contact Us

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MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am

Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Tuesday of every month at 8am at the Indo-Chinese Association, 4536 University Avenue.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165

Phone: 619/540-4410

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Asso.

3727 El Cajon Boulevard

Meets the second Thursday of the month, 5:30pm

Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1222 Vermont Street in the Uptown District

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm

Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30am

Contact: 619/294-2501

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733

Rick Edgil (Hillcrest) -- 619/299-7028

Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500

Ed LaVelle (North Park, University Heights) -- 619/533-5795

Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515

Bill Taitano (Normal Hgts., Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2383

Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3180

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

3795 Fairmount Ave., Weingart Library-Community Room

Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm

Contact: Al Stasukevich, Chair, 619/285-1611.

North Park Project Area Committee

North Park Community Service Center, 3956 30th St.

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977, or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Jeff Gattas, Chief of Staff

George Biagi, Director of Communications, media, webpage, newsletter, Community Development Block Grant coordinator, LGBT community liaison, HIV/AIDS issues, Chargers, special events.

Kim Craig, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Normal Heights, Rules Committee, infrastructure, docket coordinator, utilities, energy, budget, women's issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park, South Park, Golden Hill, environment, libraries, arts and culture, Downtown redevelopment, MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, budget.

Cheli Mohamed, Confidential Assistant to Deputy Mayor Atkins and the Chief of Staff, office manager, scheduler, volunteer coordinator.

Ryan O'Connor, Constituent Services Representative, assists council representatives with constituent services, correspondence, data entry, and administrative support.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to Hillcrest, University Heights, Kensington, Talmadge, Police and Fire and Life Safety Services, schools, Equal Employment Opportunity, and ADA issues.

Stephen Russell, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to City Heights, redevelopment, Small Business Advisory Board, Development Services, Community and Economic Development, BID Council, SANDAG, budget.

Diana Spyridonidis, Council Representative to North Park, housing, homeless, domestic violence, Workforce Partnership, MTS, seniors, social service issues, pension.